

from making improper references to individual Senators.

AMERICANS NEED JOBS

(Mr. RYAN of Ohio asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, another week has gone by in the United States Congress, and nothing has been done with unemployment benefits for unemployed workers throughout this country; 2 million to 3 million workers still do not have work. Thousands in the State of Ohio are losing their unemployment benefits every single day. And we sit here and we want to take pot shots at different Members of this body, different members of the Senate, candidates for President.

The real issues today are people do not have any place to go to find work. Those people that did have work have lost their jobs, and they are looking for unemployment benefits to feed their families. They want to send their kids to school. We have no manufacturing program in this country. We are bleeding jobs every day.

We better get our act together in the Congress. I think it is time for a change. I think we need to focus on what is most important here and what our job is here, and that is to take care of the American people.

CALLING SENATOR KERRY "HANOI JOHN" IS SHAMEFUL

(Mr. STRICKLAND asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STRICKLAND. Mr. Speaker, something happened on the floor of the House this morning that in my judgment is shameful, shameful, because the record of an American hero who shed his blood, who earned three Purple Hearts, a Silver Star, and a Bronze Medal was referred to on the floor of this House as "Hanoi John." Is that what we have come to in this House?

I would remind those listening that when the President of the United States found some reason not to show up for his responsibilities and when Vice President CHENEY said he had other responsibilities during the Vietnam War, it was Senator JOHN KERRY who took the bullets for this country and for us and our freedoms.

Shame on those, shame on those who would denigrate the record of a true American hero.

REPUBLICANS ARE UNWILLING TO MEET THE COMMITMENT TO VETERANS

(Mr. DEFAZIO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, by attacking JOHN KERRY's war record this

morning, the Republicans would revive the controversy of the war in Vietnam, yet they are unwilling to meet the commitment to the veterans of that war who are still waiting for the benefits they were promised. They will attack veterans of the war, and they will not help the veterans of the war in the way we promised when they went to war.

They have not yet repealed the disabled veterans tax. They are supporting \$1 billion less than we need to provide health care. The President is proposing to double the prescription drug cost for our veterans. And yet they have the temerity to attack a distinguished veteran of that war, one who has also voted to meet the commitments to the veterans of that war and the veterans who are coming home today. But they are not willing to pay that bill, they are just willing to attack.

NO BOUNDARIES

(Mr. BELL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BELL. Mr. Speaker, are there no boundaries?

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Earlier today several Republicans came to the floor of this House of Representatives to attack the military record of Senator JOHN KERRY, to attack the military record of an individual whose medals alone would take almost all of my allotted time to name, to attack the military record of a man who risked his very young life for his country in Vietnam and was wounded on three different occasions, a man who risked his life to save others; and then when we he came home to the United States, decided he was not finished saving lives. Instead, he decided to stand with thousands of other Americans and question a war that had clearly lost direction.

JOHN KERRY's appearance before the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations back then was a turning point in the debate on Vietnam, and he showed the same level of patriotism by taking that stand here at home as he did with his act of bravery in Vietnam. To attack him in this manner is simply shameful. But I guess in this day and age of politics, there are no boundaries, and regretfully we should not be surprised.

KERRY, HIGHLY DECORATED VETERAN

(Ms. DELAURO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, December 1968, JOHN KERRY gets wounded in the arm. He is awarded the Purple Heart. February 1969, KERRY is wounded again, shrapnel in the left thigh. He

is awarded a second Purple Heart. February 28, 1969, pursues a Viet Cong fighter, kills him and retrieves a rocket launcher, awarded a Silver Star. March 1969, a mine detonates the boat, wounding him in the right arm. He is awarded a third Purple Heart. He is also awarded a Bronze Star for saving a crew member.

As my colleagues have pointed out, Republicans came to this floor today to attack JOHN KERRY's military record. Shame on them. JOHN KERRY honors our men and our women in uniform. He honors the principles upon which this great Nation was founded. There are those who serve in the Republican side of this aisle who would do well to take heed and give honor to someone who served so well this great country of ours.

KERRY, A DECORATED WAR HERO

(Ms. SCHAKOWSKY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I was actually baffled to hear that some of my colleagues came to the floor this morning to criticize JOHN KERRY in his capacity as an enlisted soldier and war veteran. JOHN KERRY, the highly decorated hero, recipient of the Silver Star, Bronze Star, three Purple Hearts, Combat Action Ribbon, Navy Presidential Unit Citation, Navy Unit Commendation Ribbon, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal and the Vietnam Campaign Medal, that JOHN KERRY was blasted and accused of being unpatriotic for being critical of the Commander-in-Chief during the Vietnam War.

I am baffled that my colleagues would even choose to go there because our current Commander-in-Chief has, what can I say, a less than heroic military career, and the majority of the Americans are more than a little concerned about a President who has sent our soldiers into battle without an exit strategy, without a post-Saddam plan and without body armor.

DANGEROUS DUTY FOR KERRY

(Mr. PALLONE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, JOHN KERRY volunteered for service in the Navy during the Vietnam War where he served as skipper on a swift boat that patrolled the Mekong Delta. Navy Admiral Elmo Zumwalt, who devised Operation Sea Lord, calculated in his biography that swift boat sailors had a 75 percent chance of being killed or wounded during a typical war. Under Sea Lord, swift boat duty was one of the most dangerous duties you could draw in the entire U.S. Navy. KERRY was wounded three times in Vietnam, received three Purple Hearts for those injuries. He was also awarded a Silver Star and a Bronze Star for his actions in combat.

In addition to the individual awards for bravery, KERRY's unit was awarded the Presidential Unit Citation Ribbon by President Richard Nixon.

I could go on, but I have to say I am ashamed to hear the statements that are being made by Republicans, by my colleagues on the other side, talking about Senator KERRY, who served so honorably, who was a decorated veteran. And if he decided that he wanted to question the Vietnam War after serving in it, that was his right as an American.

PRAISE KERRY

(Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, JOHN KERRY did serve his country honorably in Vietnam and stood up with many Americans to question a war that had lost purpose and was losing many American lives.

JOHN KERRY's speech played an important role in moving the debate from the streets to the floor of the Senate. The Nixon administration was not responding to the changes in the war in Vietnam and was deceiving the American people about the war.

KERRY's testimony saved lives. KERRY and other veterans who marched in D.C. in 1971 exercised the same patriotism that drove them to serve their country in the battle in Vietnam. They had fought for liberty and freedom of expression for the Vietnamese, and they returned to the United States to stand up and be heard. His actions should be praised, not scorned.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Ms. Evans, one of his secretaries.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BURNS). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

BUSH'S WAR ON ENVIRONMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. McDERMOTT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, we see the Iraq war in the newspapers every morning and on the television every evening, but we are not seeing reports on the administration's undeclared war on the environment.

It is a war. It is being fought on our own soil, and the polluters are winning.

This Earth Day this administration has launched a full frontal assault on the environment. The assaults include the air we breathe, the water we drink, the land we cherish, the fish in the sea and the people themselves.

I am a doctor. My medical training and experience taught me you have to treat illness by curing the problem, not by treating the symptoms. This administration does neither. We could write a prescription, but it will not be filled while this President is in office.

Air pollution shortens the lives of thousands of Americans, and air pollution worsens the lives of millions more. Breathing polluted air is bad enough when you are in good health. It can be catastrophic when you suffer from any one of a number of respiratory illnesses.

When I was a kid, I had asthma. It is a respiratory illness which can clog or even close the bronchial tubes which carry air to the lungs. In other words, asthma can impair the ability to breathe. In severe cases, asthma can be life-threatening and require immediate medical attention. An asthma attack can be triggered by smoke and by environmental pollution. And we have seen the enemy, and it is the administration.

The environmental pollution this administration has let loose on America saves the polluters millions of dollars, but costs individual Americans dearly. Do not take my word for it. Ask anyone with asthma or any other person with a respiratory condition in this country.

Respiratory problems are just one area of medicine impacted severely and negatively by pollution. There are others, from skin disease, to chronic allergy, to a host of medical problems hurting Americans, young and old. Polluters have poisoned water supplies. They have contaminated rivers and streams. And worst of all, they are getting away with it. They are changing the rules.

This country is more in danger at 5 o'clock on Friday than at any other time environmentally during the week because that is when the administration puts out the new regulations under the radar, no press conference, no anything, just give the polluters an open door. They invite them to secret meetings to craft America's energy policy. This administration does not look the other way. Instead they hold fund raisers.

The President cannot remember making a mistake the other day on television. I cannot remember the President doing anything right about the environment. The record is that abysmal. And unless we change administrations this November, it will only get worse.

In my home State of Washington, it takes committed local organizations like the People for Puget Sound and others to monitor the regulators. In my home State of Washington, we now fear new environmental actions Repub-

licans openly hint about that may harm or kill whales, porpoises and dolphins.

No one and nothing is safe from the undisclosed war of this President on the environment. Now, whales cannot vote, but we can. Porpoises cannot vote, but we can. Dolphins cannot vote, but we can. Children cannot vote, but we can. Lakes and streams cannot vote, but we can. The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge cannot vote, but we can. The water, the air, and the Earth cannot vote. We must vote on their behalf.

This is Earth Day. Sadly, the Earth is in grave danger, much greater than it was in 1970s when this first was put on the calendar. We know who is responsible, and we know why. It is all about money, about greed. Energy producers are saying, we cannot clean up the air.

In the President's own State, the major city is one of the most polluted in the country. When he was Governor, he did nothing. When he is President, he does nothing. Houston might as well not have a President or a Governor.

We must save the planet before it is too late, and the sand is quickly flowing out of the hour glass. Today is the day we decide to vote for the planet and vote this President out of office in November.

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MURPHY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. Speaker, April is Child Abuse Prevention Month. It is an important time to focus on how we can deal with this painful and preventable scourge on America's children.

It is estimated that a staggering 896,000 children were neglected or abused in the United States in 2002, approximately 12 out of every 1,000 children. In 2001, there were 1,300 deaths from neglect or abuse, but some estimate that half the deaths from neglect go unrecorded. And although cases of abuse have dropped slightly since the 1990s, the number has remained alarmingly steady in recent years. Most times the abuse is from a parent, and there is abuse at all income levels.

The effects go far beyond the immediate and obvious impact. There are long-term consequences that include developmental delays, learning disorders, aggressive behavior and depression. Now, these consequences do not just affect the individual, but they effect society as a whole. Survivors are at a greater risk later in life to abuse their own children.

State, Federal, and local governments, human service agencies, schools, faith-based groups and health care facilities have a stake in helping to prevent child abuse. These groups can all work together with combined resources to improve protective factors such as parenting skills and attitudes.